

I always enjoy talking to students that visit the State Capitol about representative democracy and our state government. The group above, Lori Manske's 4th grade class from Griswold Elementary School, joined me in the Senate Chamber during their visit to the State Capitol this past March.

Aid For Our Towns

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 18th state Senate District is ensuring Griswold, Groton, North Stonington, Plainfield, Preston, Sterling, Stonington and Voluntown receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state in Fiscal Year 2008–2009:

	Fiscal Year 08-09
Total Education Grants	\$67,502,132
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$997,656
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$5,381,585
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$727,197
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$2,176,463
Total	\$76,785,033

Fort Griswold Monument

I am proud to report that \$500,000 in bonding for repairs to the Fort Griswold monument in Groton was finally approved by the State Bond Commission.



For years, many in southeastern Connecticut have been working diligently to secure funding for Fort Griswold, and those efforts have paid off. Fort Griswold has sat in disrepair for far too long and I'm very pleased that it will be returned to its glory. This is truly a victory for all who have taken Fort Griswold and its history into their hearts and worked as tireless advocates, especially the Friends of Fort Griswold. Without the support of the Friends, this would not have been possible.

The Face of Connecticut

As vice-chairman of the Environment Committee, I was pleased to co-sponsor legislation to create the Face of Connecticut Fund and Steering Committee, bringing coordination and a shared vision for the preservation of our state's working farmland, open space, and historic treasures. Currently, the many advocates for these efforts are forced to compete for scarce resources. The Fund and Steering Committee would identify the state's most threatened natural and historic treasures and coordinate a plan for preserving them while allowing for more coordinated growth and economic development. Additionally, the Steering Committee would prioritize funding needs and seek increased support in a single, annual funding request.



Dear Neighbor:

By almost any measure, the nation is in a recession, and states across America are feeling the effects.

Connecticut faces these uncertain times with a biennial budget that makes important investments in local schools, roads, health care, school readiness, municipal aid, criminal justice programs, and other vital needs.

However, state revenue forecasts continue to drop, and just as Connecticut's families are tightening their belts, so must our state government. While we held the line on any new spending during this past legislative session, we were still able to find ways to help the people of our state by enacting long-needed reforms in our criminal justice system, health care, consumer protection, and the environment.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

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Andrew Maynard

State Senator

Fighting the High Cost of Gasoline & Energy

We all know that the cost of fuel is sky-high—affecting how much you pay for gas and groceries. While we can't stop fuel prices from rising, we can prevent tax increases from further driving up the cost. This June, we said NO to a scheduled increase in the gross receipts tax. By blocking this tax hike, we're hoping to save you a

few cents on each gallon, and that adds

up. We're also taking action to help

seniors and working families

survive the high cost of the

looming home heating oil season.



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I'm proud to represent the 18th Senate District:

Griswold
Groton
North Stonington
Plainfield
Preston
Sterling
Stonington
Voluntown

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Allowing Seniors to Receive Care at Home

Many seniors who require long-term care would prefer to receive that care in their own home or with a relative caregiver. For many, that is not an option due to Medicaid reimbursement rules. A federal program called 'Money Follows the

Person' allows Medicaid funds to 'follow the patient' from nursing homes to more personalized settings. The state program can currently enroll 700 seniors, but we expanded the program to accommodate up to 5,000. The state's reimbursement rate for those in the program will climb from 50 to 75 percent for each enrollee. Most seniors prefer



home care when complete independence is no longer possible, and this federal/state partnership grants that wish while shoring up the state's finances.



Autism Legislation

Despite autism being the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States, there is still not enough support for those who are affected by it. This legislative session I helped to pass a series of bills that will improve the quality of life for autistic children and give their caregivers more support. One new law requires education officials to develop a statewide plan to incorporate methods of teaching children with autism into programs, requirements, and training. Another requires health insurance companies to cover therapy services for those with autism and provides support for people and their families who may not be eligible for state services.

TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this coupon and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the opposite side of this mailer.			
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Keeping Jobs and Tax Revenue in Connecticut

Many Connecticut-based companies are losing state contracts to out-ofstate companies. Instead of using state contracts to create jobs here, all too often multi-million dollar contracts are awarded to consulting firms in Arizona, printers in Michigan, and so on. I helped to pass a law that will keep more of our tax dollars and jobs in Connecticut. The 'reciprocal preference' or 'Golden Rule' bill levels the playing field for local companies competing with certain out-of-state companies. The bill ensures that if another state offers an advantage to its own companies, then we do the same for our companies when they try to win a contract with the State of Connecticut.

Criminal Justice Reforms

Crime is an issue that has been on the minds of many state residents for several months, and the General Assembly took strong and decisive action this year on a

variety of criminal justice matters. The legislature created the new crime of "home invasion," which carries a mandatory 10-year minimum jail term, and created a full-time, professional Board of Pardons and Parole. We also approved doubling and tripling prison sentences for the most violent of



Helping Workers

Save for Retirement

Saving for retirement is getting more

difficult. People who work for small

businesses have it especially tough—

nearly 70 percent of small businesses

don't offer retirement plans. I supported

a bill that would have made Connecticut

the first state in the nation to enact

a retirement plan for small business

employees, non-profits, and the self-

employed. The plan would have been

voluntary. By pooling together small

businesses from across Connecticut,

bargaining power, helped people save

for retirement, and instantly given our

small businesses a real advantage over

out-of-state competitors. While this

bill only passed the Senate this year, I

hope it will be signed into law next year.

the plan would have increased

criminals while simultaneously giving criminal justice professionals the \$10 million needed to enhance public safety. That money will be used to prosecute repeat offenders, track sexual offenders, hire more investigators and probation officers, and increase funding for prisoner re-entry programs.

Veterans' Benefits

We continue to recognize the sacrifices made by veterans and military personnel from Connecticut and their families. The General Assembly approved a bill to enhance unemployment benefits for spouses if they voluntarily leave their jobs because their military spouse has been relocated. Legislation was also approved to provide additional educational opportunities for certain veterans and their families. One measure requires the state-run institutions of higher education to offer tuition waivers for any state resident who is a dependent or surviving spouse of an active-duty military member who was killed in action after September 11, 2001. In addition, the tuition waiver for veterans will be expanded to include graduate school tuition for National Guard members beginning July 1, 2008.

Honoring Our Troops

Our military personnel dedicate their lives to defending our country and upholding freedom and democracy. This session, we created several



new opportunities to honor the service of Connecticut's veterans and active-duty troops.

Starting in January, any Connecticut resident can purchase a "Support Our Troops!" license plate for \$60, a portion of which will be used to assist servicemen and women, their families and veterans. We also waived the \$10 fee for the Gold Star license plate, which is available for families of veterans who are killed while on active duty. Finally, we extended eligibility for burial in the state veterans' cemeteries to frontline members of the National Guard and allowed for the posthumous award of the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR
FOR VETERANS'
LEGISLATION

As co-chair of the
Veterans' Affairs
Committee, I spoke at a
press conference
reviewing a successful
year for the passage of
legislation supporting
veterans and their
families. The press
conference was held in
front of the veterans'
memorial monument
outside the State Capitol
in Hartford prior to
Memorial Day weekend.

